

02-277

From: IMAD DANDAN
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 2:00 AM
Subject: Stop conglomeration of the media

The media merger mania that we are witnessing is a serious threat to our democracy. Mergers give great power to a few individuals and it allows them to control dissemination of the facts which we need to make good decisions as citizens.

As chairman of the FCC, please do everything you can to stop this dangerous trend. I came to this country 37 years ago to live in freedom. I would like for my children to enjoy the same freedoms that I have enjoyed.

Sincerely,
Ana Sanchez MD

From: Ronald Whitney
To: Commissioner Adelstein, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Michael Copps, Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 2:02 AM
Subject: STOP MEDIA CONSOLIDATION!

STOP MEDIA CONSOLIDATION!

You serve to protect the public good; not corporate power! Stand up for democracy.

Do not deregulate the radio airwaves. In fact, return to the stricter standards that existed for both radio and TV before 1996. Principles such as free and diverse information access do not need to be "updated." Already we are feeling the negative affects of media consolidation. The Internet is not sufficient to counter the restrictions imposed by limited diversity. Not every one has access to the Internet. And by relying on it to supply diverse information, we are in saying that not everyone is entitled to diverse information.

From: cedwards97@comcast.net
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 2:08 AM
Subject: June2, FCC ruling

Dear Mr. Powell, as a citizen who is extremely concerned about the loss of diversity in the media, I beg you to not rush a decision on expanding ownership without first giving a wide and informative notice to the public at large. I think the American public is quite unaware of what is at stake here and what the long term ramifications of a decision on behalf of the media giants means. It is incumbent on you to get the word out to the public on this huge and profound issue. Thank you. Cynthia Edwards

From: Marc Andersen and Lisa Peterson
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 2:21 AM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Marc Andersen and Lisa Peterson (llaughingfrog@iglide.net) writes:

Please vote against handing over our airwaves to a few wealthy forces. Don't trash our democracy.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 65.58.156.186
Remote IP address: 65.58.156.186

From: Anton Grambihler
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 2:54 AM
Subject: Limit the SIZE of the Media

Hi:

The USA Public needs a law which limits the size of the media. It needs to be more strict than the monopoly laws for other businesses. As a minimum this law needs to do the following:

1. Eliminate all overlap in media ownership.
2. Media ownership shall not be allowed to extend across state boundaries.

Have a good day

Tony

Anton Grambihler
2008 Davison Ave
Richland, WA 99352-2015

From: R Standingbear
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 2:56 AM
Subject: concerned citizen

It is both the responsibility and public mandate of the FCC to insure that media serves the collective benefit of the 'people'. We are not benefited when an issue as important as the FCC's recent decision to review/change media ownership rules occurs and the only major broadcaster to report this (ABC) does so at 4:40 am. I'd say this is a 'case in point'. Even a superficial look at what media consolidation to date has actually done to 1) objectivity 2) unbiased reporting of events 3) diversity of views 4) stating the simple TRUTH, reveals that allowing further sabotage on public media ownership/control is a huge mistake.

Referring to the not so hidden attempt by the corporate agenda to control the public media, commissioner Copps stated, ".....it also has some profound democratic and social and political considerations that we ignore only at our own tremendous peril." In my opinion, his words are an understatement. I am totally opposed to ANY deregulation of the FCC's current standards. If anything these ought to be more stringently written and enforced. The corporate grab has already managed to manipulate and work around existing regulations. Those of us who pay attention have watched this not so hidden corporate power grab for the last decade and we are outraged!

It is the function of the FCC to support and protect the public good not the profit-driven corporations and power-driven political interests.

From: PMRovegno@aol.com
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, kjimweb@fcc.gov, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 3:18 AM
Subject: June 2nd FCC decision - NO on media ownership consolidation

Dear Commissioners:

Please do not allow even more concentration of power in the hands of a few media conglomerates. If anything, restore the ownership restrictions you had in the 90's.

Relaxing the media ownership restrictions will be terrible for democracy. A citizenry cannot make informed choices when our information is controlled by owners who have profit, not the public welfare, at heart. Put the public back in the public airways.

To even consider such relaxations with so little public input is an abrogation of your responsibility. Isn't it a little curious to you that the media has given so little coverage to such a far-reaching and important decision? Very few people know about this purported change of rules.

Please protect our right to know. Please protect us all from media ownership concentration.

Pat Rovegno
10497 Chace Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014

From: Simone Forti
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 3:25 AM
Subject: proposed RULE CHANGES

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners,

Democracy needs diversified media. As a concerned citizen I urge you to preserve the regulations on the media which, like the Constitution of the United States, give ballast to our civil society.

Thank you for your kind attention,
Simone Forti

--Simone Forti
-- siforti@earthlink.net
-- EarthLink: It's your Internet.

From: Andrew Boyd
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 4:11 AM
Subject: vote on media consolidation

Dear Chairman Powell,

Please please allow more hearings on the fate of our public airwaves.
Allowing a few corporate giants to control most of our media could be a
terrible disaster for our democracy.

Thank you,

Andrew Boyd, MD
Cristal Weber

276 Aina Pua Place
Kapa'a, HI 96746

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

From: Rojna3@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 4:14 AM
Subject: STOP MEDIA CONSOLIDATION VOTE

PLEASE HOLD OF THE VOTE NEXT MONTH THAT WOULD EXPAND THE NUMBER OF MEDIA OUTLETS ONE COMPANY COULD OWN. HOLD MANY MORE PUBLIC MEETINGS ABOUT THIS. THE PUBLIC HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED, CERTAINLY NOT BY THE MEDIA THAT WANT THIS GET VOTED IN. WE CAN LOSE OUR DEMOCRACY IF JUST A FEW MEDIA GIANTS CONTROL WHAT WE SEE AND READ. THE PUBLIC WILL LOSE ITS OWNERSHIP OF THE AIRWAYS, IF JUST A FEW GIANTS CONTROL MOST OF IT.

From: suzy
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 4:32 AM
Subject: Media control

TO: Michael Powell

I have just heard about legislation that would permit all forms of media to be owned by just 4 or 5 major corporations. Through simply capitalism, the ownership already is tantamount to a monopoly with so few feeding their selection of "news" to so many. To legislate this, giving it official recognition, is nothing short of mind control and is as unconsonable as many other areas of corruption and deception being exposed.

In your powerful position, please use your influence to turn around the control of our media and let mainstream newspapers, TV and radio be owned and operated as honest and comprehensive sources of information. Like the Internet reports.

Thank you.

Suzanne Ward

From: eileent07@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 4:52 AM
Subject: Media Ownership Issues

Dear Mr. Powell,

Unless you intend to run a dictatorship, it would be wise to consult the public regarding issues of media ownership. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it is the smart thing to do. We are your constituency and ultimately the consumers of the different mediums, and it only makes sense to ask your customers what their preference is before introducing a "new product", so to speak. You and the other commissioners could be throwing away a vital opportunity to hear from the people.

Fortunes may be made in the short run, but that kind of profit is neither long-lasting or satisfying even in the short run. Please Mr. Chairman, do the right thing. Do the smart thing, and consult the people on this issue.

Respectfully yours,

Eileen Thompson
Airway Owner and Consumer

From: Arthur McLean
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 6:16 AM
Subject: media ownership

In regards to the announcement on media ownership set for June:

Please limit media ownership of local broadcast stations. I live in a medium-sized broadcast market (Western Massachusetts) and my broadcast choices have shrunk substantially in my lifetime of 56 years from the changes already in effect. There is no longer any credible source for local radio news and community service is nonexistent.

I can remember a time not so long ago when the situation was very different and I was even a part of it.

Unlike cable or other wired media, the airwaves are extremely limited and should be preserved for universal access. They are the last free-access options left, they cannot be replaced and I want desperately to see them here for generations to come.

Once, we thought three TV networks were all we needed but we were wrong. Once, there was a myth that AM/FM broadcasting was dead (and that the airwaves should be surrendered to "commercial" interests) but that was wrong. There's no third strike.

What if we shut down the options for local programming just when the costs had dived and that was exactly what we needed?

My community needs local broadcasting and, from what I've heard, it's about to be taken away.

Please stop the media takeovers or, better yet, reverse course.

From: StevenWLeet@aol.com
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, mcoops@fcc.gov, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 6:35 AM
Subject: media monopoly

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners

I urge you NOT to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely
Steven W Leet
Wilmington Massachusetts 01887-1882

From: Robert Mosca
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 6:46 AM
Subject: Media

I have just recently learned that the FCC will allow consolidation of many forms of media. I don't see how this is in the public interest. It allows a few corporations to control the content of the media to their own benefit, not the publics. It also allows a few big corporations to control the agenda and gives them enormous political power that is not good for a democratic government.

Robert Mosca

From: Barbara Cotti
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 7:04 AM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Barbara Cotti (ziusudra@mindspring.com) writes:

I am not in favor of, i.e. opposed to consolidating the media by special interest groups monopolizing that, which comes over my public airwaves in the name of unbiased reporting.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 67.75.0.149
Remote IP address: 67.75.0.149

From: Linda Melvin
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 7:04 AM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Linda Melvin (linda.melvin@infopath.com) writes:

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

I am writing to say that I am very angry that you, as a Commissioner of the FCC, are about to vote on the FCC's broadcast ownership rules - the Broadcast-Newspaper Cross-Ownership Rule, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Television-Radio Cross-Ownership Rule; the Dual Network Rule; the Local Television Ownership Rule; and the National Television Ownership Rule (also known as the Biennial Review for all broadcast ownership rules) without adequate public comment.

These proposed changes are anti-democratic, anti-American, and very dangerous to a free society. I urge you to vote against these proposed changes until a full and complete public comment period is conducted.

If, in less than a month, the FCC votes on these rules reconfiguring the media landscape without providing an opportunity or time for public comment, each of you as five FCC Commissioners becomes personally responsible for a horrendous travesty of the public trust. This process is even more scandalous because its output is being put before the Commission as an "Eyes Only" document, not permitted to circulate outside the Commission for comment. This is bad policy for so important an issue and one that, by concealing the details of these sweetheart deals with media conglomerates will, I hope, cause problems in the courts later on.

- L. H. Melvin
San Mateo County, CA

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 63.196.11.50
Remote IP address: 63.196.11.50

From: BNFaulkner@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 7:15 AM
Subject: deregulation

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

I have questions and very deep concerns about the plan to deregulate telecommunications that is scheduled for a decision on June 2, 2003. Because it could further open the door for corporate abuse of media control (something that is already a problem-perhaps you should address THAT), and ultimately threaten democracy, I don't feel that enough study has been given to this change. Not enough citizens have yet heard about this impending decision or about its possible consequences. The decision must be delayed, and the issues should be discussed in public forum. The present course of action is not the way things should be done a democracy.

Repectfully,

Barbara Faulkner
Baton Rouge, LA

From: glhawk@attbi.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 7:33 AM
Subject: media monopolies

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

I urge you NOT to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

These proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. And many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast ownership protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,
Gary L. Hawkins,
Turners Falls, Ma. 01376-0136

From: tina
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 7:33 AM
Subject: June 2 vote

We feel very strongly that large corporations should not be able to own all the TV, radio and papers in an area. Many voices are needed from all points of view in our media. Diversity in the media is the essence of a free society.
William and Christina Maloney
Harwich, Ma

From: Charles E John
To: Michael Copps
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 8:05 AM
Subject: deregulation

To loosen the rules on how few can own so many news outlets (newspapers, radio, and television) is insane. If anything we should be moving to restrict how many 'outlets' that any one person or company can control or own. Please don't let us down, ask for more public input, and work harder to inform the public about this very important issue.

CC: KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

From: Kelly Goscinski
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 8:11 AM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

Kelly Goscinski
8 Robert Drive
Hyde Park, NY 12538

May 3, 2003

Federal Communications Commission Chair Michael K. Powell
445 12th St SW
Rm 8-A204
Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

It is clear that the FCC has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet.

In my area, Clear Channel Communications controls 8 out of the 10 stations on my FM dial. I frequently hear the news being reported on one channel as the same news almost verbatim 5 minutes later on another channel. This is not balanced media. Americans deserve to make informed choices and should not be forced into making decisions based on what a media conglomerate deems important or news-worthy.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob us all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review any further regulations. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

Sincerely,

Kelly R. Goscinski

From: Richard Mason
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner
Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 8:20 AM
Subject: don't relax broadcast rules

Please don't relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies. The proposed changes would pave the way for giant media conglomerates to gain near total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. Many of the corporations now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

The American people deserve more than one point of view on important issues. I urge you to continue the protections that have helped ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely

Richard Mason
Oakland Maine 04963

From: Stephen Rozov
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 8:35 AM
Subject: Modification of Ownership Rules

Dear Commissioners:

Having worked in the broadcast industry for over 20 years, may I express my deep concern regarding any further alterations in the media ownership rules. Since the passage of the Telecommunications Act in 1996, a disasterous, in my opinion, consolidation of media outlets has taken place to the detriment of diverse opinions in the marketplace. Of most concern is the aggressive acquisition of broadcast and print properties by individuals with a clear political agenda. The current situation endangers our freedom of speach. Any further weakening of the ownership rules would further that situation. These airways are owned by the public and regulated by the FCC in the public interest. Do the job for which you were appointed.
Regulate!

Sincerely,

Steve Rozov
1216 Mason Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

From: John Sumner
To: Mike Powell
Date: Sat, May 3, 2003 8:38 AM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

John Sumner
1301 W Jefferson St 20A
Morton, IL 61550

May 3, 2003

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Powell:

The FCC must NOT further weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media.

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

The FCC is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal of or further modification to these rules will likely open the door to more mergers that will continue to reduce competition and diversity in the media. If the rules are weakened further, one company in a city could control the most popular newspaper, TV station and possibly the cable system, giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of news and information. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in this country. Media ownership would be concentrated by corporate monopolies even further, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with diverse viewpoints would be compromised.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Sincerely,

John Sumner